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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 13-20 have been added by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 18, last paragraph to page 19, first paragraph).

New independent claim 13 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 3. New claims 14-19 depend from claim 13, and correspond to claims 7-12, respectively. Consequently, claims 13-19 incorporate allowable subject matter, and thus should be allowable.

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a portable information apparatus, which is of a folder type, including: a display section (display screen 100 in FIG. 3) for displaying information when the apparatus is folded, where the display section is composed of an image display region 110 and a non-image region 109 (see, e.g., FIG. 3; specification at page 18, second full paragraph). As recited in claim 1, when the portable information apparatus is **not folded**, both the image display region 110 and the non-image region 109 display information; whereas when the apparatus is **folded**, the image display region 110 displays information, while the non-image region 109 displays no information (see page 18, last paragraph to page 19, first paragraph).

New claim 20 specifies that only the image display region can be seen when the portable information apparatus is folded, while no information is displayed on the non-image region.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 2000-184023 to "Ri". Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ri in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0033836 to Smith. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ri in view of U.S. Patent 6,088,240 to Steinhoff et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ri in view of Japanese Publication 9-186752 to "Adachi". These rejections are respectfully traversed.

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The Ri reference is directed to a folder-type portable telephone set including an information display part 112, a touch sensitive panel 114, and a transparent window 212a for viewing information displayed on the information display part 112 when the telephone is in a closed or folded state (see English-language abstract). In the Office Action, information display part 112 of Ri was cited as corresponding to the "image display region" of claim 1, and touch sensitive panel 114 was cited as corresponding to the "non-image region."

With reference to independent claim 1, Ri does not teach or suggest a display section having an image display region and a non-image region such that when the apparatus is folded, the image display region displays information while the non-image region displays no information.

In Ri, the touch sensitive panel 114 does not correspond to the Applicants' claimed non-image region. The touch sensitive panel 114 "displays" the same information when the telephone is folded or not folded. Therefore, the touch sensitive panel 114 is not equivalent to the non-image region of the display section, as recited in claim 1.

Consequently, Ri does not teach or suggest the portable information apparatus, as recited in claim 1.

With reference to new independent claim 20, Ri does not teach or suggest a display section having an image display region and a non-image region in which only the image display region can be seen in a folded state of the portable information apparatus, while no information is displayed on the non-image region.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 of Ri, when the main body and folder are closed, both the information display part 112 (or "image display region") and the touch sensitive panel 114 (or "non-image region") can be seen through the transparent window 212a.

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Therefore, Ri does not teach or suggest the portable information apparatus, as recited in claim 20.

For at least the reasons described above, independent claims 1 and 20 are patentably distinguishable over the Ri reference. Independent claim 13 merely incorporates allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 1-20 should be in condition for allowance.

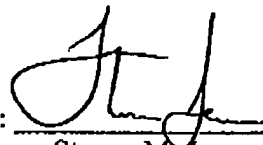
It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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